

President and the Cabinet alone. The Spanish Intendant (still in control in Louisiana) withdrew the privilege of deposit at New Orleans.—a privilege granted to citizens of the United States by the Treaty of 1795, and not to be taken away without conceding "an equivalent on another part of the bank of the Mississippi." This stipulation was wholly disregarded. The act caused the greatest excitement in the Western States. Kentucky was especially aroused. Its Governor informed the President of the infraction of the treaty, and its legislature memorialized Congress in reference to it.

The President was resolved not to be forced into taking premature action upon anything that concerned Louisiana. It was absolutely necessary that his plan should have time to ripen. Though the action of the Spanish Intendant was a matter of universal discussion, Jefferson ignored it in his message of December, 1802, and his allusion to the retrocession of Louisiana had little meaning. The House of Representatives, however, grew restless, and requested the documents relative to the action of the Spanish official. Jefferson made a feint of indulging this request and transmitted to them an account drawn up by Madison. But this threw no new light on the matter; its substance had long before been printed in the newspapers. In a word, Jefferson was employing dilatory tactics to keep the country quiet. The Republicans connived at this course, but the Federalists in the House endeavored to force the President to disclose his policy. Early in June, they moved that the President be called upon to produce all official documents relating to the retrocession of Louisiana. The Republicans rallied to their leader and the motion was voted down. The administration was thus committed to a policy of secrecy, a policy which the Republican party while in opposition had furiously assailed when the Jay treaty was under consideration.

Though voted down, the Federalists felt that they had won a moral victory, and they immediately moved the passage of strong resolutions demanding for the people of the United States the free navigation of the Mississippi River. But the majority had no mind to let the Federalist party by premature